

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
October 10, 2006

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

COE members:
Catherine Tunis
Robert Goo
Mar-E Robnett
Tim Male
Kea Woodruff

Public Works Director Daryl Brathwaite

Al Solomon, global change ecologist
John Ackerman

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm.

Tim moved to approve September minutes. Robert second. All in favor.

Jonathan Wrotny was interviewed by Council for COE membership on 10/09. COE members should send 50-word bios to Kea for website.

A Council briefing is scheduled for November 6th. COE needs to give a short presentation, 15-20 minutes.

Topics to address:

- 1) What we've accomplished this year
- 2) What we're planning for the coming year
- 3) What would Council like us to look at and/or get involved in?

Catherine had a list of items to start discussion.

Topics to discuss:

Tim – wildlife habitat
Albert – energy
Catherine – mercury switch legislation
Robert – green building guidelines and stormwater
Kea – rain barrel workshop, website, comments on development proposals

Mar-E wants Council input on what types of flyers/brochures/other information they would like us to distribute to the public

Tim suggested we ask about what type of role Council would like COE to play in Arbor Day and in development.–

Daryl suggested Council would be interested in hearing which regulations COE would like to revise. These may include undesirable species and other items in the tree ordinance and stormwater issues.

Climate Action Plan discussed – COE consensus that we would like Council to put reducing greenhouse gas emissions on a priority list, including looking to implement some of the recommendations in the Climate Change Action Plan, exploring carbon credits, and producing a brochure on the Plan.

Catherine will email the listserv group about Backyard Habitat project.
Mar-E and Catherine will confer regarding a tree article for the newsletter. Future articles will be on electronic recycling, LED retrofits, green power rebates, and garden equipment.

The new City Arborist will be here next month. COE would like to address the following topics with him:

- general philosophy
- invasive non-native issues
- tree inventory, using GIS
- increasing vs. maintaining tree cover
- enforcing the permit process
- best methods for protecting existing trees
- a brochure for realtors and other public outreach

The Green Festival will be held in downtown DC this weekend (10/14-15).
There will be a Metro development public hearing on 10/11.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.